Signing of CTBT

†1801. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether both domestic and foreign private companies have submitted their proposals in the nuclear power sector;

(b) If so, the names of such major companies and the countries they belong to;

(c) whether India is going to allow entry to all the companies of international repute for this purpose;

(d) the details of the effects it would have on the country and nuclear safety; and

(e) whether India is going to sign on the CTBT silently under strong pressure from USA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir. However, many Indian and foreign firms are engaged in discussions at the company level for setting up of nuclear power projects in the country. These discussions are of exploratory nature.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) No decision has been taken on private sector participation in the nuclear power field.

(d) All the safety regulations and the safety requirements laid down by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board shall remain applicable as at present.

(e) No, Sir.

Violation of laws in coal mines production

1802. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that now-a-days more than fifty per cent of coal production is made through contractors and contract workers;

(b) if so, whether laws of the land permit this in coal mines production;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.